

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A ballpoint pen tip comprising a writing ball and a check ball, ~~wherein~~ the writing ball and the check ball ~~are~~ being placed close to each other with a ~~slight~~ clearance therebetween, said clearance being such that the check ball moves away from and separates from the writing ball when a tip end of said ballpoint pen tip is directed upward and moves toward and comes into contact with the writing ball when the tip end of said ballpoint pen tip is directed downward.

2. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 1, wherein the check ball is smaller in diameter than the writing ball.

3. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 1, wherein vertical play of the check ball is larger than vertical play of the writing ball.

4. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 2, wherein vertical play of the check ball is larger than vertical play of the writing ball.

5. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 1, wherein lateral play of the check ball is larger than lateral play of the writing ball.

6. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 2, wherein lateral play of the check ball is larger than lateral play of the writing ball.

7. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 3, wherein lateral play of the check ball is larger than lateral play of the writing ball.

8. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 4, wherein lateral play of the check ball is larger than lateral play of the writing ball.

9. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 1, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;
channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and
a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel

burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

10. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 2, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;

channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

11. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 3, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;

channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel

burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

12. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 4, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;

channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

13. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 5, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;

channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel

burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

14. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 6, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;

channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

15. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 7, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;

channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel

burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

16. (original) The ballpoint pen tip according to claim 8, further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;

channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

17. (currently amended) A ballpoint pen comprising:

a ballpoint pen tip comprising a writing ball and a check ball, ~~wherein~~ the writing ball and the check ball ~~are~~ being placed close to each other with a ~~slight~~ clearance therebetween, said clearance being such that the check ball moves away from and separates from the writing ball when a tip end of said ballpoint

pen tip is directed upward and moves toward and comes into contact with the writing ball when the tip end of said ballpoint pen tip is directed downward; and

an ink-containing tube that contains gel ink.

18. (original) The ballpoint pen according to claim 17;
the check ball being smaller in diameter than the writing ball,

vertical play of the check ball being larger than vertical play of the writing ball,

lateral play of the check ball being larger than lateral play of the writing ball, and

the ballpoint pen tip further comprising:

an ink guide hole for guiding ink to the writing ball;
channels formed by cutting an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole; and

a protrusion and a recess that are traces of removed channel burrs being caused when the channels are cut;

wherein the protrusion contacts a surface of the check ball to provide a space to be an ink pool between the surface of the check ball and the recess.

19. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a ballpoint pen tip, comprising the steps of:

cutting an ink guide hole for guiding ink;

cutting channels in an inner peripheral surface of the ink guide hole;

incompletely removing channel burrs caused when the channels are cut, to form a protrusion and a recess from traces of the burrs; and

inserting a check ball ~~and a writing ball~~ into a part of the ink guide hole where the channels are cut; and

inserting a writing ball on the tip end side of the check ball.